Waldo County Emergency Management Agency
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April 3, 2025

Federal Communications Commission:

Our County Emergency Management program maintains a Traffic Information System (TIS) AM radio station WRBR686 for the express purpose of providing broadcast content allowed under CFR Title 47, section 90-242 - which includes emergency information - following a locally declared state of emergency resulting from a natural or manmade disaster. We are submitting a request to lessen the burden to utilize this service under special conditions that warrant a STA which would afford our station more than 10 watts of power.

We would like to be able to transmit at a higher power then the normally allowed 10 watts once a local state of emergency is declared, without the delay that accompanies the filing of an application for an Emergency Special Temporary Authority (STA) license to permit the increased power.

We propose that a waiver be considered for TIS licenses which would permit an operator such as our County to integrate – in advance - engineering studies which demonstrate that a predetermined power increase would not cause interference to commercial broadcasters. This waiver would allow us to go to this increased power level upon the declaration of a local state of emergency and with immediate notice to the FCC, eliminating the delays inherent in the present STA-application process.

Access to lifesaving emergency information is far more important than an application procedure during a critical emergency. Once approved, a pre-engineered waiver will reduce staff time for both your agency and ours and will bring emergency information to the public with expediency and without delay.

Anything that the Commission can do to alleviate regulatory requirements and simplify the use of a Travelers Information System with increased power in an emergency would be most appreciated.

Dale D. Rowley

DALE D. ROWLEY, CEM, PE
Director, Waldo County EMA